The Department arranges visits of foreign travel agents, tour operators and media representatives to various tourist centres in Madhya Pradesh also, so as to familiarise them with the tourist attractions of the State.

(b) The Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation is organising conducted tours of Khajuraho temples, Kanha National Park and marble rocks of Jabalpur on a regular basis. These tours are available to both domestic and foreign tourists.

(c) and (d) Government of India have already in principle agreed to provide assistance for the construction of a Yatri Niwas at Gwalior. Three Yatrikas at Amarkantak, Chitrakoot and Onkareshwar have already been completed and a fourth one at Maheshwar already sanctioned. A 24-bedded Forest Lodge at Bandhavgarh is under construction.

Smuggling on SCI vessels

1857. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there is growing menace of smuggling on Shipping Corporation of India vessels;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Bombay customs authorities have taken stringent measures against the erring crew members and the Shipping Corporation of India;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The number of smuggling incidents on the vessels of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. is on the decrease.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected.

(d) Strict instructions have been issued by the SCI to ships' personnel not to indulge/engage in smuggling activities and various notices concerning the same have been pasted in the accommodation of all the SCI vessels. Deterrent penalties have been imposed on personnel who are found to be involved in smuggling.

Appearance of Kalazar in Bihar

1858. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kalajar has made its appearance in some districts of Bihar and as many as 10,000 people has been affected by it;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the medicines required for this disease are to be imported and this is proving to be an impediment in tackling the problem;

(c) whether the Central Government would come forward to assist the State Government with medicines and also draw up a national plan for eradication of this disease; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes.

(b) The drug of choice for the treatment of Kala-azar is Sodium Antimony Gluconate which is indigenously manufactured and is available in the country. The cases who are resistant to Antimony Compound require Pentamidine which is not manufactured in the country. The number of such cases ranges between 7-8 per cent. 1800 ampoules of Pentamidine were made available to the Government of Bihar through the W.H.O. during 1986.

(c) and (d) Consequent to the recommendations of the Group of Experts on Kala-azar constituted by the Government of India, it has been proposed to take up anti-Kala-azar activities in Bihar and West Bengal as an extention of National Malaria Eradication Programme on 50:50 cost sharing basis.